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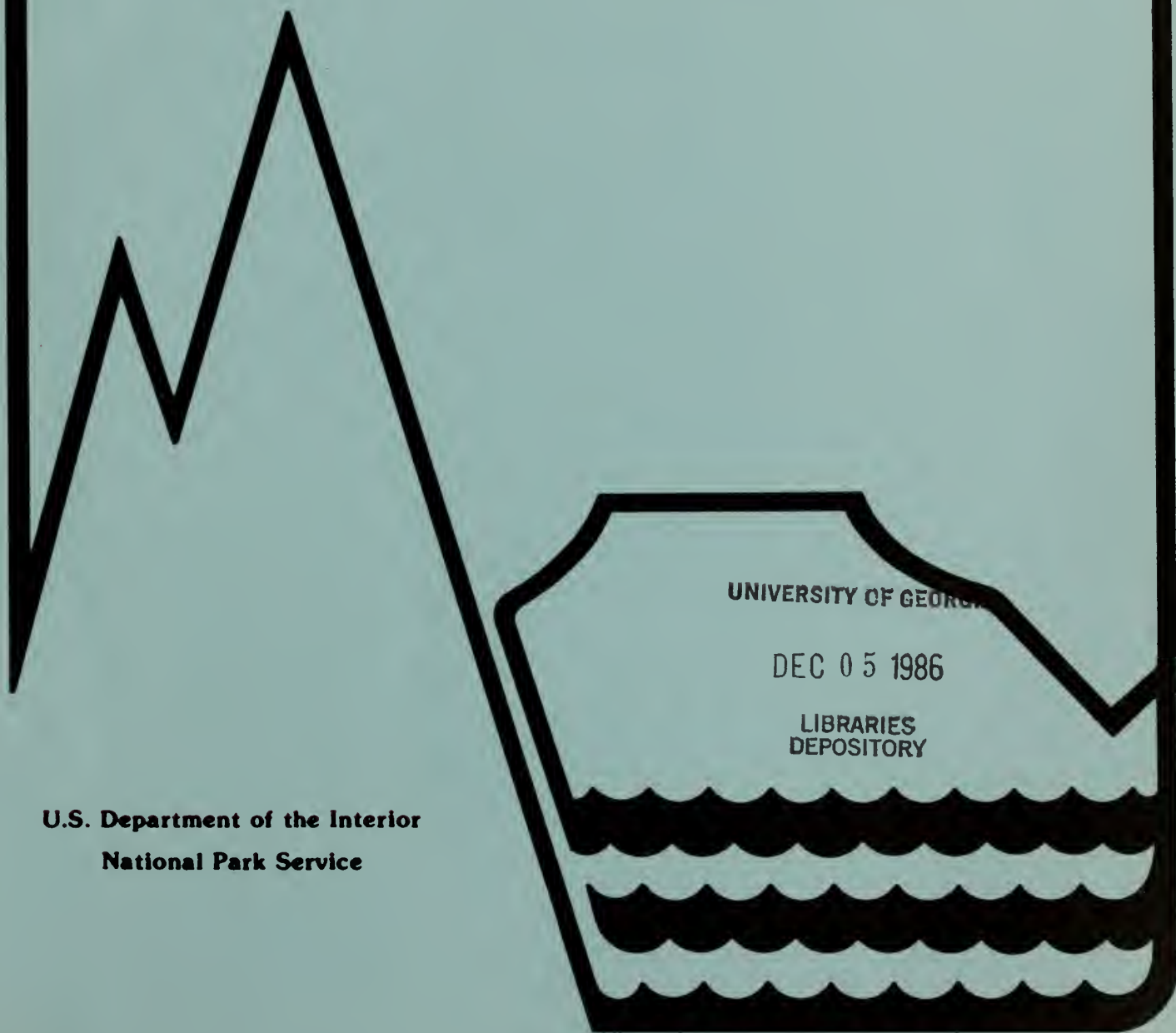
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Curecanti National Recreation Area

Statement for Management

September 1986



**U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

The Statement For Management (SFM) provides and up-to-date inventory of the park's condition and an analysis of its problems. It does not involve any prescriptive decisions on future management and use of the park, but it provides a format for evaluating conditons and identifying major issues and information voids.

Recommended by:

Joseph F. Center
Superintendent
Curecanti National Recreation Area

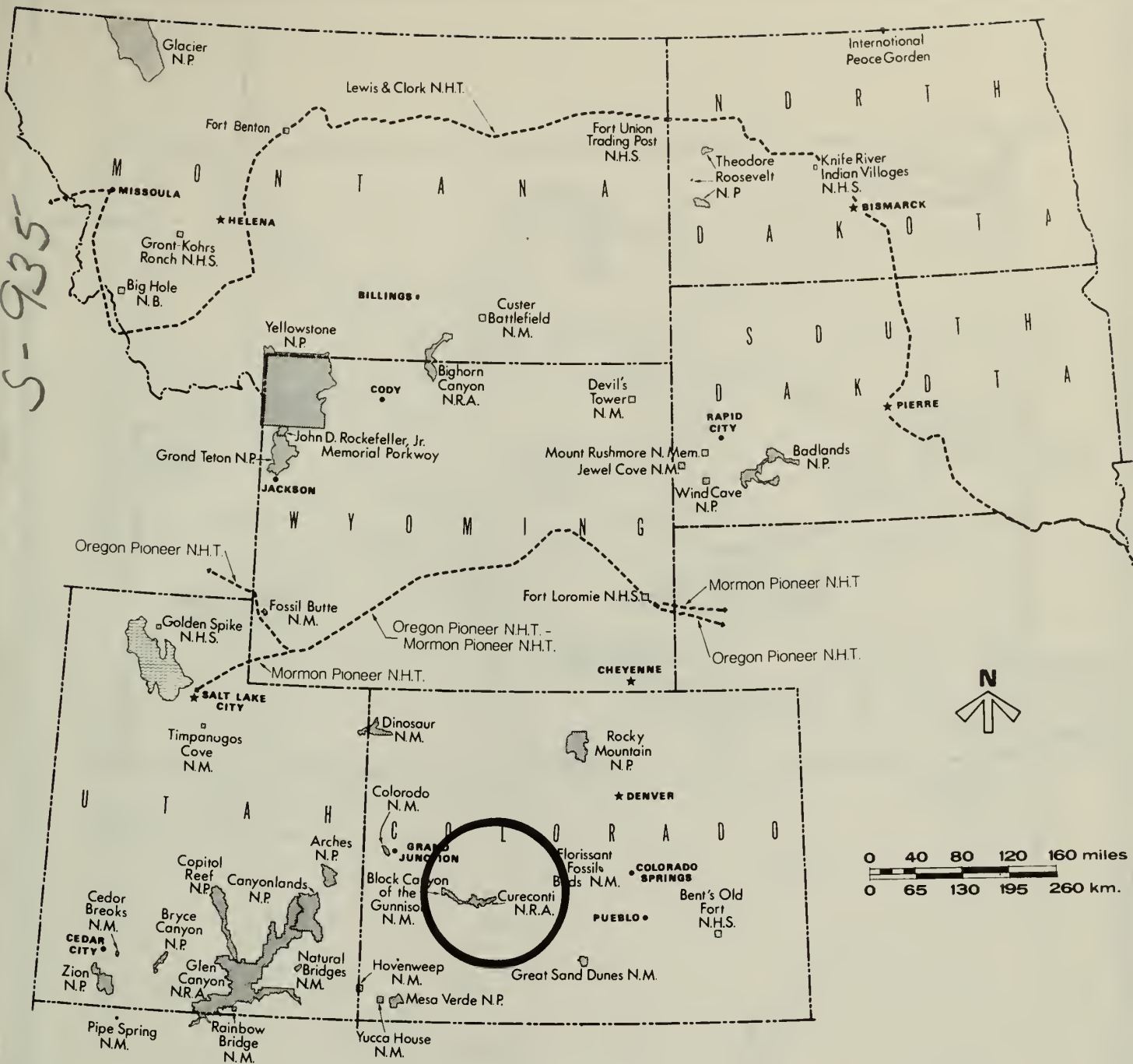
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Date

Approved by:

Jack M. Nichols
Regional Director
Rocky Mountain Region **Acting**

9/16/86
Date

S-935

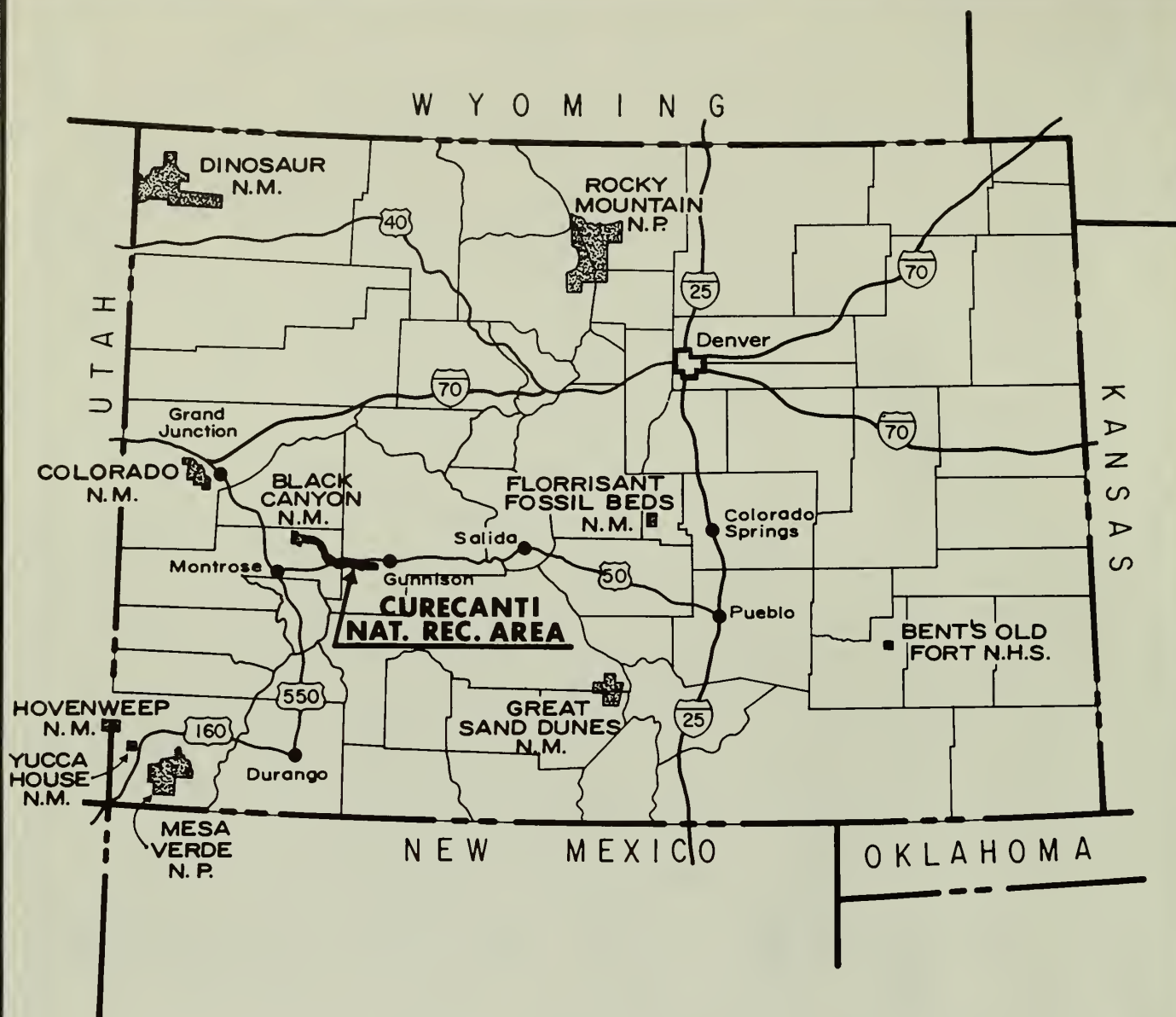


Legend

- Locations of Major Cities
- * Locations of State Capitals
- State Boundary Lines
- National Park Service Areas
- National Park Service Historical Trails

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

National Park Service
United States Department
of the Interior



REGIONAL MAP

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



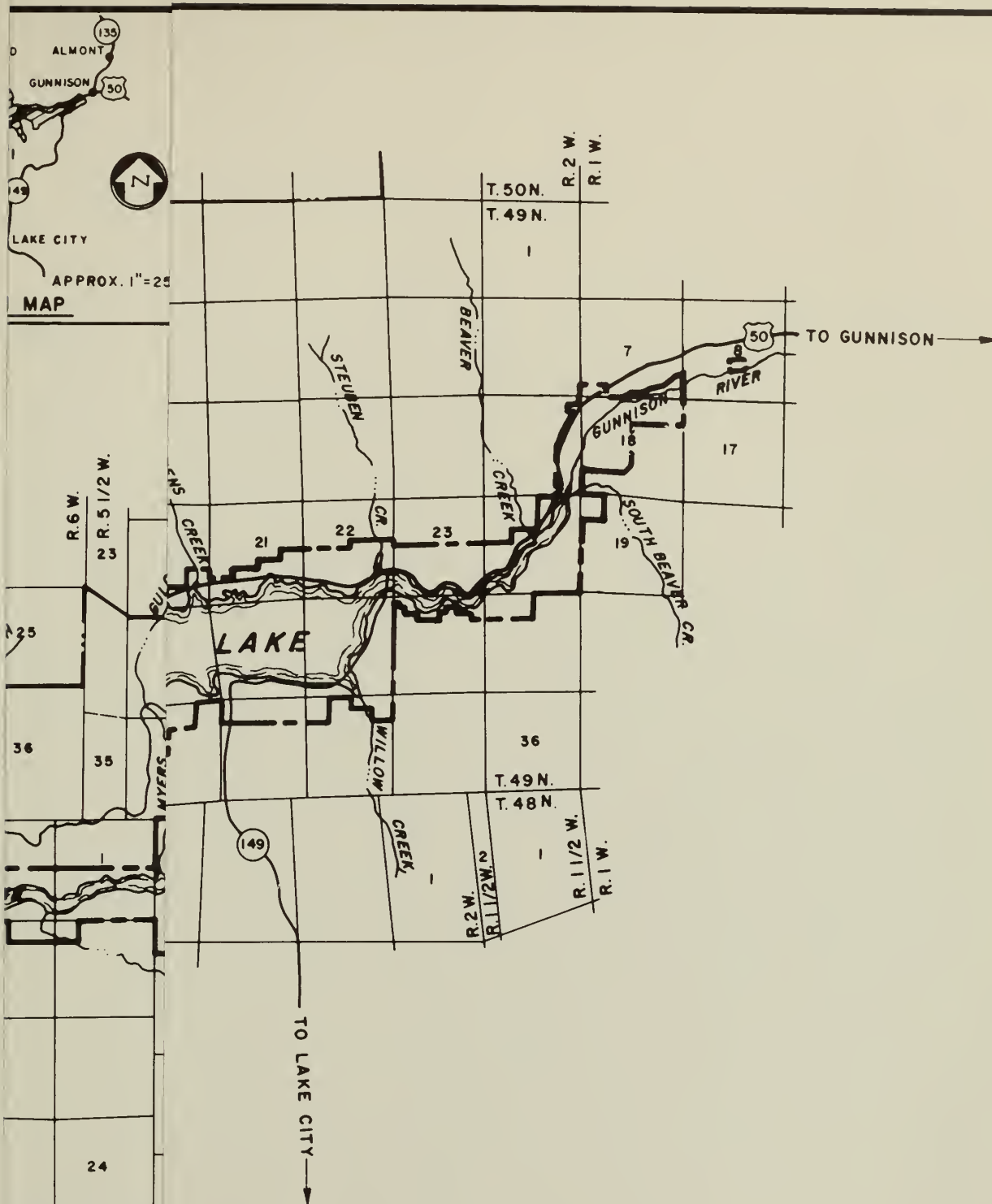
VICINITY MAP

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

GUNNISON AND MONTROSE COUNTIES, COLORADO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

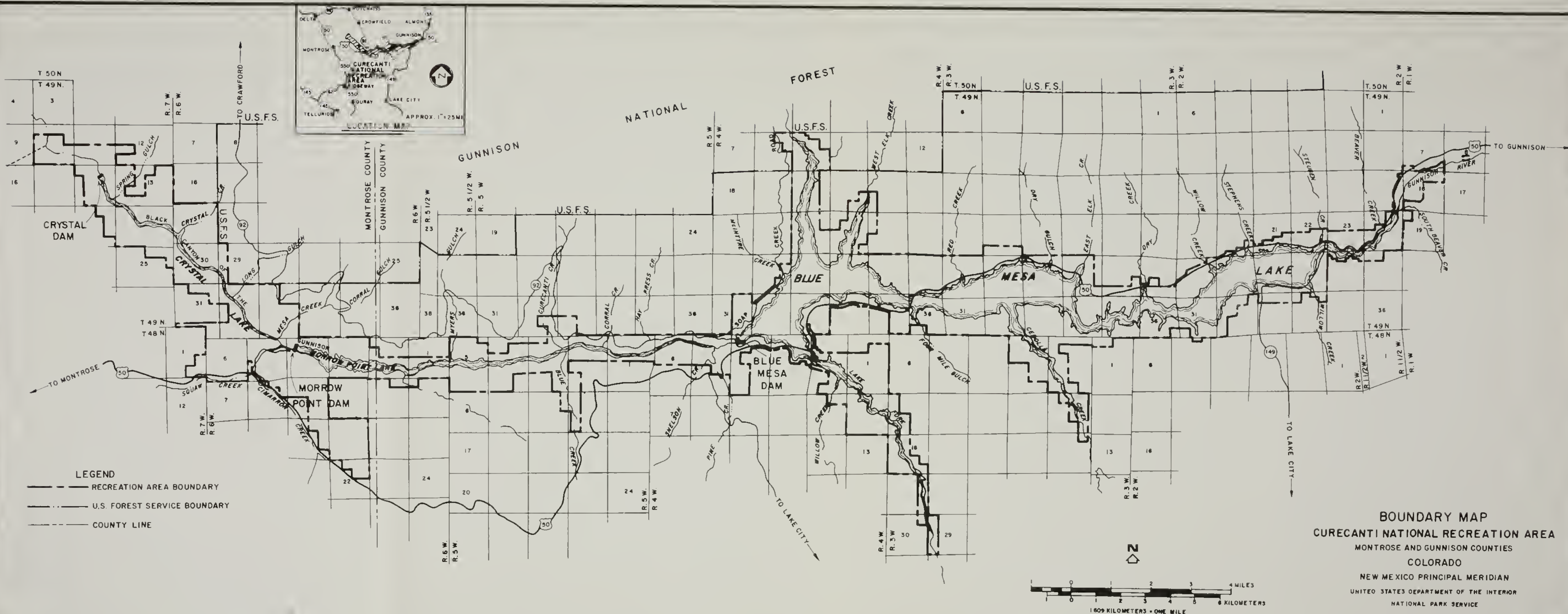
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BOUNDARY MAP CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA MONTROSE AND GUNNISON COUNTIES COLORADO

NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MILES
METERS



I. LOCATION

Curecanti National Recreation Area is in Colorado's Third Congressional District within Gunnison and Montrose Counties. It embraces three impoundments on the Gunnison River formed by the dams of the Wayne N. Aspinall Unit of the Colorado River Storage Project operated by the Bureau of Reclamation.

II. PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Curecanti's basic purpose is clearly defined in Public Law 485 (70 Stat. 105), Chapter 203, enacted April 11, 1956, as follows:

Sec. (8) ". . .the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to construct, operate, and maintain the following initial units of the Colorado River Storage Project, consisting of dam, reservoirs, power plants, transmission facilities and appurtenant works:"

Sec. (8) ". . .the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to investigate, plan, operate, and maintain (1) public recreational facilities on lands withdrawn or acquired for the development of said project, or participating projects, to conserve the scenery, the natural, historic, and archeological objects, and the wildlife on said lands, and to provide for public use and enjoyment of the same and of the water areas created by these projects by such means as are consistent with the primary purposes of said projects. . . ." These primary purposes are defined as reclamation of arid and semiarid lands, flood control, and generation of hydroelectric power.

Curecanti's basic purpose is further articulated in the Memorandum of Agreement between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation signed by Secretary of the Interior Udall on February 11, 1965, as follows:

"Whereas the Service (National Park Service) has been designated as the agency responsible for carrying out the provision of Section 8 of the said act of April 11, 1956;"

Article I, "General Provisions:"

"1. . . .Except for the areas required by the Bureau (Bureau of Reclamation) for construction, operation and maintenance of the dams, the Service shall administer

all lands and waters within the project area, providing for recreation therein. . ."

Article II, "Functions of the National Park Service:"

"3. Negotiating the executing contracts, with private individuals, partnerships or corporations for supplying necessary visitor services related to recreational use of the project area, including, but not limited to, use of the waters for boating, canoeing, bathing, and sightseeing; and the prescribing and enforcing reasonable rates and standards for the supplying of such services.

"4. Establishing and enforcing policies regarding the recreational use of lands and waters in the project area. . ."

"6. Establishing and maintaining protective, interpretive, and other facilities and services as may be necessary for the safe and full use and enjoyment of the area for recreational purposes. . ."

III. INFLUENCES: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. Existing Factors

The National Park Service manages Curecanti National Recreation Area by agency agreement as approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Management is adequate under current legislative mandates.

Provisions affecting the establishment and administration of the recreation area are as follows:

Colorado River Storage Project authorized by the Act of April 11, 1956, (70 Stat. 105).

The establishment of the National Park Service by the Act of August 25, 1916, (39 Stat. 535).

Act of August 7, 1946, (60 Stat. 885) authorizing the National Park Service to use appropriated funds to construct and operate facilities on the land under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency.

National Park Service Director's memorandum of February 17, 1958, to the Secretary of the Interior setting forth the joint recommendation of

the Director and the Commissioner of Reclamation for management of the area approved by the Secretary on April 12, 1958.

Memorandum of Agreement, based on Section 8 of the 1956 Act (70 Stat. 1050), between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service relating to the development and administration of recreation on the Curecanti Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, signed in December of 1964, and concurred by the Secretary of the Interior on February 11, 1965. The drawing numbered SA-CUR-7101 which depicts the withdrawn lands for the Curecanti unit may be revised at any time to illustrate changes in the project area as a result of land acquisition or additional withdrawals. The 5-year facility construction program funded under Section 8 officially ended September 30, 1984. Two ongoing contracts carried over and were completed during 1985. A small amount of funding is left to complete the loose ends of the program during 1986.

A contract dated December 13, 1948, between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Uncompahgre Valley Water User's Association defining obligations in the operation of the Gunnison tunnel, including East Portal water diversion and irrigation water distribution conforming to the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388).

Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement (to Agreement of December 3, 1948), dated April 13, 1966, and reaffirmed for the period ending September 1, 1984, between the National Park Service and the Shavano Soil Conservation District concerning water allotment and soil and moisture conservation programs.

Memorandum of Understanding (CA-1379-66-01) for the National Park Service to manage, protect, and develop 670 acres of Forest Service land within the Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal area, dated July 11, 1966, and reaffirmed every 5 years.

Deed of Easement from the Bureau of Reclamation to the State of Colorado, Department of Highways, for relocation of the highway right-of-way for U.S.

Highway 50 which runs through Curecanti National Recreation Area, signed February 10, 1967.

Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Colorado, Division of Wildlife, for cooperative endeavors toward achieving proper management of lands and water in the State of Colorado within recreation areas, dated August 25, 1969.

Contract with the Gunnison County Fire Protection District for structural fire suppression services at Elk Creek, Iola, and Lake Fork, dated October 1, 1980, renewable annually.

Right-of-Way Reservation with the Bureau of Land Management for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a hiking trail, rest room, parking area, and picnic shelter at Hermit's Rest Trailhead, dated March 30, 1981.

Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Colorado Division of Wildlife for the development, operation, and maintenance of the Dry Gulch Campground within the Sapinero Wildlife Unit, dated July 19, 1982.

Interagency agreement between Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, dated October 1, 1982, provides basis for cooperation between agencies on all aspects of wildfire management.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management for the management of livestock grazing within Curecanti National Recreation Area for a 5-year term (renewable), dated May 23, 1984.

Land-Use Permit issued by the U.S. Forest Service for the reconstruction, operation, and use of the Soap Creek Road, dated May 24, 1984.

Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service allowing for the temporary seasonal closure of Red Creek and Rainbow Lake roads for the protection of wildlife and the prevention of road-base degradation, dated June 4, 1984.

Cooperative Agreement between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management for the cooperative management of 4 miles of road and lands from Red Bridge to Gateview on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River to include upgrading of the road, development of facilities, mitigation of impacts on historic resources, and placement of an interpretive trail and panels, signed September 20, 1984 (BLM No. 1786-CO-030-83).

Right-of-Way Reservation with the U.S. Forest Service for the construction and maintenance of a trail (1.3 miles) and trailhead facilities (1.63 acres) at the Crystal Creek Trail Day Use Area, dated April 7, 1986.

Right-of-Way agreements (1966-2, 1984, 1985) with the Gunnison County Electric Association for overhead and buried power transmission lines in four locations with remaining terms of 1 to 28 years.

Right-of-Way agreements with Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company (1966-2, 1969, 1982, 1983, 1984-2, 1985-2) for buried telephone cable in seven locations with remaining terms of 22 to 36 years, and microwave repeater installations in three locations with remaining terms of 3 to 30 years. Some of these agreements were issued by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management.

A License Agreement (1968) with Mr. Richard Oswald for the location of a well, pipeline, and road with a remaining term of 32 years issued by the Bureau of Reclamation prior to the National Park Service administering the area.

Special-Use Permit 1379-00-6008 (1969) for Mr. N. Austin to locate a pump house and other structures on park lands with remaining term of 3 years.

A Right-of-Way Agreement (1984) with the Delta-Montrose Electric Association for a buried power transmission line with a remaining term of 2 years.

A Right-of-Way Agreement (1985) with Blue Mesa Recreation Ranch for use of a strip of land (30 feet by 103 feet) for an access road from U.S. Highway 50 to their privately owned lands. This agreement is for a term of 30 years and is currently awaiting the signature of representatives of Blue Mesa Recreation Ranch and the Colorado Department of Highways.

Concession Contract 9900C20122 (1979), including six amendments, between the National Park Service and Elk Creek Marinas, Inc., for marina services and showers at Elk Creek and Lake Fork and a restaurant at Elk Creek. The current contract runs through the end of December 1988. Operation of the tour boats on Morrow Point Lake is currently being provided for by annual amendments to the contract.

Concession Permit 1379-05-0001 (1985) between the National Park Service and the Rocky Mountain News to provide self-vending newspaper stands through September 30, 1989.

Lease Agreement (20 years) between the city of Montrose and the National Park Service for the use of a narrow gauge railroad locomotive with tender and caboose (used as an exhibit below Marrow Point Dam), August 16, 1973.

The Denver and Rio Grande Western narrow gauge trestle is included in the National Register of Historic Places, June 18, 1976.

The Gunnison Tunnel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 1979.

The Curecanti Archeological District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, August 15, 1984.

Curecanti National Recreation Area operates under concurrent jurisdiction.

2. Upcoming Factors

The Legislative Support Package initiating a bill for Curecanti National Recreation Area has been finalized by WASO and recently updated by Curecanti National Recreation Area and Rocky Mountain Regional Office. An

interest in the legislation was shown by Congressman Michael L. Strang, Colorado's Third Congressional District, in April of 1985. For the last few months, he has been considering an alternative to combine several areas along the Gunnison River (Curecanti National Recreation Area, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument, and the lower Gunnison Gorge) into an area which might be called Black Canyon National Park and Scenic Recreation Area.

The current Concessions Contract will be expiring at the end of 1988. Efforts are currently underway to determine which concession-provided facilities and services are necessary and appropriate for the upcoming contract. Among the items which requires careful consideration is the status of the tour boat operation on Morrow Point Reservoir.

No comprehensive list of right-of-ways, licensing agreements, or other authorizing documents issued by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, or the U.S. Forest Service for the use of lands now administered by the National Park Service has been compiled. There will be a need for such a comprehensive list once legislation has been passed.

Cooperative Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding are being entered into as needs arise. Rights-of-Way and Special-Use Permits are also issued as needed on an ongoing basis.

B. RESOURCES

1. Water Areas

Curecanti National Recreation Area is composed of three lakes impounded on the Gunnison River by the Bureau of Reclamation as the Wayne N. Aspinall Unit (September 17, 1980, formerly designated the Curecanti Unit) of the Colorado River Storage Project. Blue Mesa Lake, Colorado's largest manmade lake (9,000 acres), is over 20-miles long with a shoreline of 96 miles. The lake is situated in the Gunnison River Valley and is characterized by gentle slopes leading to high mesas. Morrow Point Lake (800 acres) is an 11-mile long fiord-like lake with a 24-mile shoreline. Crystal Lake (300 acres) has the same appearance but is 6 miles in length with 19.6 miles of shore at high water. Eleven miles of the Gunnison River are within the park boundary as well as 53 miles of tributary streams.

The recreation area manages 32,014 acres of land surrounding these lakes. The park staff and the Bureau of Reclamation need to continue to develop baseline data through collecting, testing, and analysis of biological, chemical, and physical data to effect better management decisions and to protect and ascertain the potential toxic or public health hazards to the visitors and the aquatic resource. The program is needed to provide data essential for assessing the acceptability of existing water quality and for evaluating any future changes. Priority testing and monitoring should be given to major inlets and tributaries adjacent to major developments outside the park.

A determination is needed if the minimum amount of water that is necessary to preserve the integrity of the physical resources and the visitor experience--as well as the actual legal water rights Curecanti currently possesses--for recreational use facility service.

2. Wildlife

There are 51 species of mammals that make up the base of Curecanti's wildlife resource. Some such as the Gunnison prairie dog and white-tailed jack rabbit are permanent residents. The prairie dog is a continuing management problem because of its ability to reproduce in large numbers, its community style of living, its preference for disturbed ground around visitor use areas, and its tendency to harbor disease vectors, such as bubonic plague. Other mammals, such as deer, elk, and bighorn sheep, use the area as a wintering ground. There are also some 224 species of birds that are either resident or migratory. Bald eagles for example are a winter migratory species; whereas, golden eagles are nesting residents. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has recommended the reintroduction of the peregrine falcon to areas within, or adjacent to Curecanti National Recreation Area because of historic sightings and because of the ideal habitat for this threatened and endangered species.

Much of the information which is currently available on the wildlife at Curecanti was baseline data gathered prior to the construction of the reservoirs. No comprehensive studies have been conducted since. An inventory of small vertebrates needs to be conducted to

provide basic information on current populations as well as provide data-base use by which pre- and post-impoundment populations can be made. An inclusive vegetative inventory and management plan is also needed.

Although water impoundments in the Curecanti project have altered fish propagation, a fish-management and stocking program administered by the Colorado Division of Wildlife in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Blue Mesa Lake has increased--rather than diminished--the valuable fishing resource and contributed to the fishing activities throughout the region. Morrow Point Lake and Crystal Lake further enhance this fishing resource. Considering the sharp upward trend in recreational fishing, there is a need to supply an adequate harvest through an extensive fish-stocking program. At present, the Federal government is providing about 33 percent of the annual stocking program with the State of Colorado providing the other 67 percent.

Currently, Kokanee salmon and five varieties of trout provide fishermen of the Gunnison River, the three lakes, and the many side streams with a high quality fishing experience. In spring and summer, for those with the technique, catches of large mackinaw trout have been made. The lakes of Curecanti have developed into a fine sport fishery with kokanee snagging season adding still another dimension from October to December. Ice fishing on Blue Mesa Lake in winter is particularly productive for rainbow trout.

3. Scenery and Natural Objects

Curecanti lies in the heart of one of the most scenic areas of the Central Rockies--well known for its outdoor recreation opportunities. The scenery, water conditions, and resources vary considerably within the recreation area providing visitors with a wide range of recreational opportunities.

In the vicinity of Blue Mesa Lake, shoreline slopes are grass and sagebrush covered gently reaching toward 9,000-foot mesas with their sheltered stands of Douglas fir, spruce, and aspen. The mesas are incised by canyons and gulches characterized by cottonwood and willow riparian habitat. Beautiful displays of wild flowers are seen in the upland meadows of this high

mountain desert. Volcanic deposits laid down eons ago have since eroded on the mesa faces into spires and pinnacles as seen on Dillon Mesa.

The towering walls of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison are an imposing feature of Morrow Point Lake and Crystal Lake creating still another experience for the park visitor. Dramatically sculptured from the canyon wall, Morrow Point Lake's Curecanti Needle stands as an excellent example of North American, precambrian bedrock. Chipeta Falls showers down on the upper end of Morrow Point Lake and illustrates the dynamics of canyon carving. Shrubs, intermingled with conifers, cover the north facing slopes and canyon rims along Morrow Point Lake and Crystal Lake.

Roadways along canyon rims and mesas offer spectacular views for the surrounding canyons, eroded cliffs, forest-covered mountains, and rugged, snow-clad peaks.

4. Archeological Sites

The Curecanti Archeological District, consisting of a complex of 79 prehistoric sites in the Blue Mesa District and encompassing 6,750.25 acres, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of August 15, 1984. Prehistoric sites dating as far back as 10,000 years ago represent a significant change in the understanding of man's use of Colorado's high mountain valleys to the extent that new chapters will have to be added to what is known about southwestern archeology. A considerable collection of artifacts (projectile points, manos, matates, knives, scrapers, bone, charcoal, and such) is in storage at the Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. There is a need to have a representative artifact study collection returned to the park to be used for illustrative as well as educative purposes at Curecanti. However, the facilities would not accommodate the return of the entire collection of artifacts.

Of the 79 sites within the Curecanti Archeological District, 15 have been examined to date. Three ways the importance of these sites cannot be over-emphasized are (1) the antiquity of the sites--10000 B.C. to A.D. 1500; (2) the presence of habitation structures suggesting a somewhat greater degree of permanence--4500 B.C.; and (3) the variety of site types and implied functions represented. The

protection of surface artifacts is being accomplished through ranger patrols and interpretive programs.

5. Historic Objects

The Cimarron area and Lake Fork of the Gunnison at Gateview are focal points for illustrating the role of the narrow gauge railroad in realizing the transcontinental dream and in the development of western Colorado. The Gateview historic sites typify 1880 railroad construction camps and relate the influence of emigrants on the building of the railroad. On a larger scale, currently displayed at Cimarron are eight pieces of Denver and Rio Grande rolling stock (engine, tender, boxcar, caboose, sheep car, cattle car, outfit car, and crane car). This display shows the type of equipment used and its economic importance to the locale. Cimarron was used as a "helper station" to add engines for the 4-percent Cerro Summit grade to the West in 1882. Later, the station would become a major livestock shipping point in Colorado. A corral has been constructed at the site to illustrate this portion of Cimarron's history. Conquering of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison is documented with the preservation of the Cimarron River crossing trestle. Although it was originally wood construction, this circa 1892 metal structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 18, 1976. Truly, it represents a monument to the talents of the early mountain railroad builders. The entire display at Cimarron depicts the rise and fall of the narrow gauge as a mountain transportation system.

In order to maintain the integrity of the trestle, a historic maintenance guide is needed. A historic furnishings study for the outfit car is also needed to identify period furnishings for acquisition.

The Gunnison Diversion Tunnel and Dam at the East Portal area are initial points in man's development of water projects in the West. Constructed between 1904 and 1912, this project provided irrigation waters for the thirsty lands of the Uncompahgre Valley. Considered a major engineering undertaking, it has been designated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers, 1972, and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, July 1979. The facility has been an operating facility ever since its construction. This U.S. Bureau of Reclamation property is managed by the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association under a contract agreement dated December 13, 1948.

The West Elk Creek Cabins, site of an early to middle 20th Century homestead and sawmill, was evaluated for possible inclusion on the National Register. The evaluation process indicated that the structures were not of historical significance. Actions have been taken to extend the life of the structures and protect and interpret the site, however, the structures will be allowed to molder.

A professional study of the history of the Curecanti area is needed to identify other historical resources above high water as well as prepare a listing of locations, historic names, and descriptions of areas now inundated by the reservoir. No documents exist which detail the historic use and activity in the Gunnison River Valley now within Curecanti's boundary, nor has there been information compiled on the evolution of Curecanti as managed by the National Park Service. This study requires funding in the near future since vital information is being lost as people and information pass out of existence.

C. LAND USES AND TRENDS

Park acreage including the surface area of Blue Mesa Lake, Morrow Point Lake, and Crystal Lake totals 42,114 acres. Within this total are two inholdings of 40 and 160 acres respectively. These inholdings are principally used for livestock grazing. A legislative package has been prepared for formal establishment of the boundaries of the recreation area for a total 40,209.69 acres containing no inholdings. No legal survey of the Curecanti boundary has been conducted to date.

The principal use of the land surrounding Curecanti National Recreation Area has traditionally been the grazing of domestic livestock. A few ranches are in operation near the recreation area boundaries. Most of the surrounding land is federally owned and grazing rights are authorized through lease arrangements with the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Land Management continues to manage grazing allotments within the national recreation area as specified in the Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service. Information on grazing levels, range conditions, and needed range improvements, as well as existing and potential grazing-use conflicts with recreation and wildlife interests, has not been

compiled for use by park staff. The traditional uses of some areas within the park for haying and pasturing have also been allowed to continue through the issuance of annual Special-Use Permits which will be reviewed for compliance and appropriateness.

Livestock grazing and mining have been past uses within the recreation area but may be phased out where mandated by legislation or found to be in conflict with and detrimental to recreation use, wildlife management requirements, or other special uses such as on research sites. Existing mining claims and rights have not been identified nor surveyed for mineral ownership or interests.

Several miles outside the recreation area boundary and upstream from Blue Mesa Reservoir are several mining operations which open and close depending on the marketplace. Many of them involve the extraction of heavy metals. The long-term effects of these operations on the water quality and therefore wildlife and recreational use at Curecanti has not been fully explored.

A Special-Use Permit with the Colorado Department of Highways which allowed for the quarrying, crushing, and stockpiling of gravel on the Bay of Chickens Site was terminated in December of 1984 (1 year early) because of the conflict between that mining operation and the recreational use of the site. The Bay of Chickens Site has become a popular spot on the lake for sailboarding. The Bay of Chickens is now being considered for designation as a day-use area with limited development as part of a planning process which could result in an amendment to Curecanti's General Management Plan.

The only active mining operation currently within the national recreation area is the Dickerson Pit, a decomposed granite pit used to mine gravel; it is on the east end of the national recreation area. This has been authorized by the annual issuance of a Special-Use Permit since 1984. The pit is seasonally operated by Formaz and Son, Inc., who have a lease agreement with the owner of the mineral rights to operate the pit through 1988 with an additional 5-year option. Their Plan of Operation calls for mining activity to continue into the mid-1990's.

The Gunnison River valley is surrounded by mountainous forest country. On the north and east are the Gunnison and San Isabel National Forests; to the southeast, the Saguache Range; and to the south and southwest, the rugged San Juan Mountains. To the west, adjacent to the recreation area boundary, is the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument, a precipitous gorge through which the Gunnison River flows. Curecanti lies in the heart of this; one of the most scenic areas of the Central Rockies, well known for its outdoor recreation opportunities including lake and stream fishing, hunting, camping, and outstanding wilderness areas to explore.

With kokanee salmon and five varieties of trout, Curecanti has the potential of providing fishermen with fishing experiences of the highest quality. The free-flowing portion of the Gunnison River upstream from the national recreation area is nationally known for its trout fishing. Quality deer and elk hunting exist within and adjacent to the area.

A selection of campsites, for both tent campers and recreational vehicle units, can be found throughout the surrounding national forests and on private and public lands as well as within the recreation area. Towns near the recreation area have a variety of motels in numbers adequate for the present volume of visitation. Commercial camping facilities have increased near Gunnison and the owners have expressed a willingness to accommodate the additional camping needs of the visiting public.

With the cyclic closures of mines in the area, the economy of the local communities have become more dependent upon recreation and tourism. Gunnison County has started a winter marketing effort spearheaded by the Crested Butte Mountain Resort. For the 1985-86 winter season, American Airlines made direct flights into Gunnison from Dallas, Houston, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Plans are being considered to lengthen the Gunnison runway to accommodate larger aircraft for next season. This winter visitation to the area may eventually have some spinoff on the summer tourist trade.

Developers catering to the recreating public have started to build on lands adjoining Curecanti's boundary. Blue Mesa Recreational Ranch is on 77 acres north of the boundary at Willow Creek on the Iola basin

portion of Blue Mesa Lake. Construction of the 16 cabins, 293 RV sites, "club house," and utility and support facilities which are planned is well under way.

Construction of the first phase of Blue Mesa Highlands RV Resort is scheduled to start this year (1986). Plans call for the eventual construction of 2,500 RV sites to be serviced by a small group of businesses and appropriate utility systems. This development, located on 900 acres in the Sapinero area, is nearly surrounded by the lands of Curecanti National Recreation Area on the south side of Blue Mesa Lake.

Subdivisions of land for cabin and home sites on lands adjacent to the recreation area are not new to Curecanti. They started with the relocation of some of the residents of townsites which were flooded by the reservoir. The most recent subdivision is known as Iola Highlands West, a subdivision of 24 acres into eight lots immediately south of the national recreation area boundary and a few hundred feet upstream from the well which services the Iola Day-Use Area.

To date, there have been few actions taken to ascertain how the change in the use of the lands adjacent to the national recreation area boundary may affect the natural resources, the recreational experience of visitors, or the ability of existing facilities at Curecanti to accommodate the changes.

There is a need for a legal survey of the actual boundary at Curecanti in areas adjacent to private lands. With the development taking place on adjacent lands, there is a high potential for encroachment. Several conflicts with adjacent landowners have occurred recently. Conflict resolution and an increased level of resource protection would result with the completion of accurate legal boundary survey adjoining private lands. A survey of the remaining portion of Curecanti's boundary can be postponed until legislation has passed.

Ice jamming on the Gunnison River has resulted in reoccurring flooding to private lands upstream of Blue Mesa Reservoir during severe winter and spring months. The Bureau of Reclamation will likely propose ways of mitigating the problem. As proposals are forthcoming from the Bureau, the staff at Curecanti will be evaluating and making input regarding the impacts which those efforts may have on the operation or resources of the recreation area.

D. VISITOR USE ANALYSIS

Visitation totaled over 1,071,000 in 1985 representing a fairly steady increase from the 729,000 visits recorded in 1978. The peak-use season consists of the four summer months--June through September. Peak visitation occurs during the Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day weekends when between 22,000 and 30,000 visits per weekend are recorded.

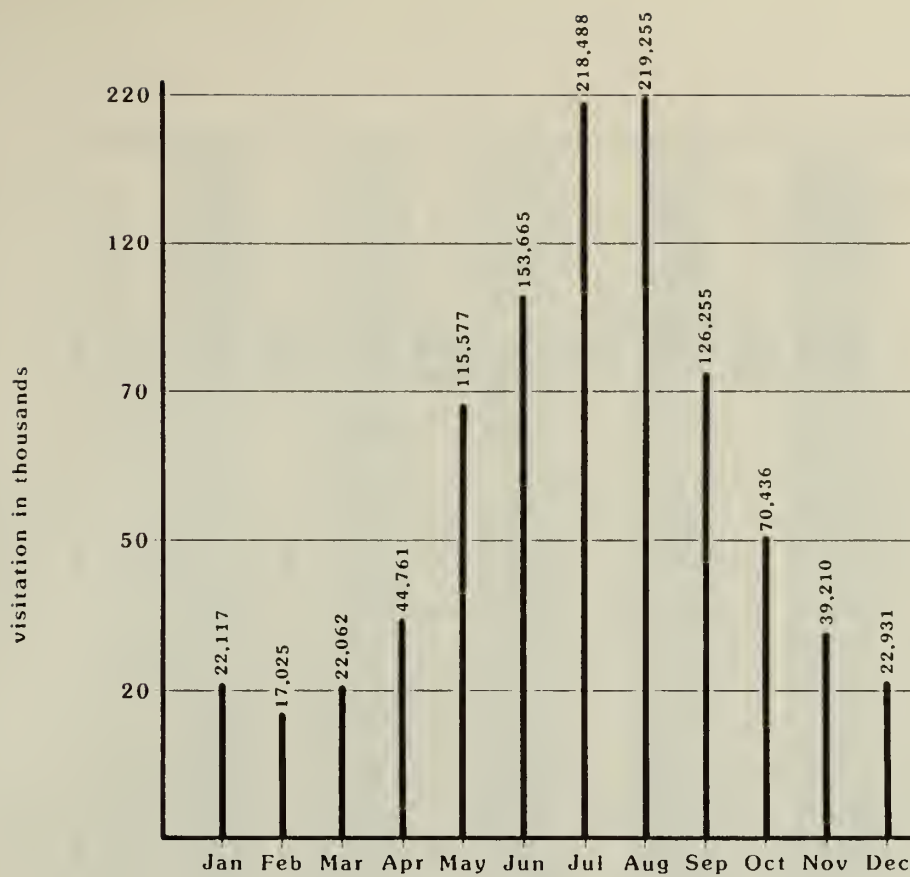
Family groups make up about 82 percent of the visits to Curecanti. Nearly half of the visitors are senior citizens (48 percent is greater than 62 years old, 25 percent is 18-61 years old, 12 percent is 13-17 years old, and 15 percent is less than 12 years old). Visitor use of Curecanti is varied with the primary uses being water-oriented. Sportsmen account for a significant percentage of the visits recorded each year.

The graphics on the following pages provide additional information regarding Curecanti's visitation.

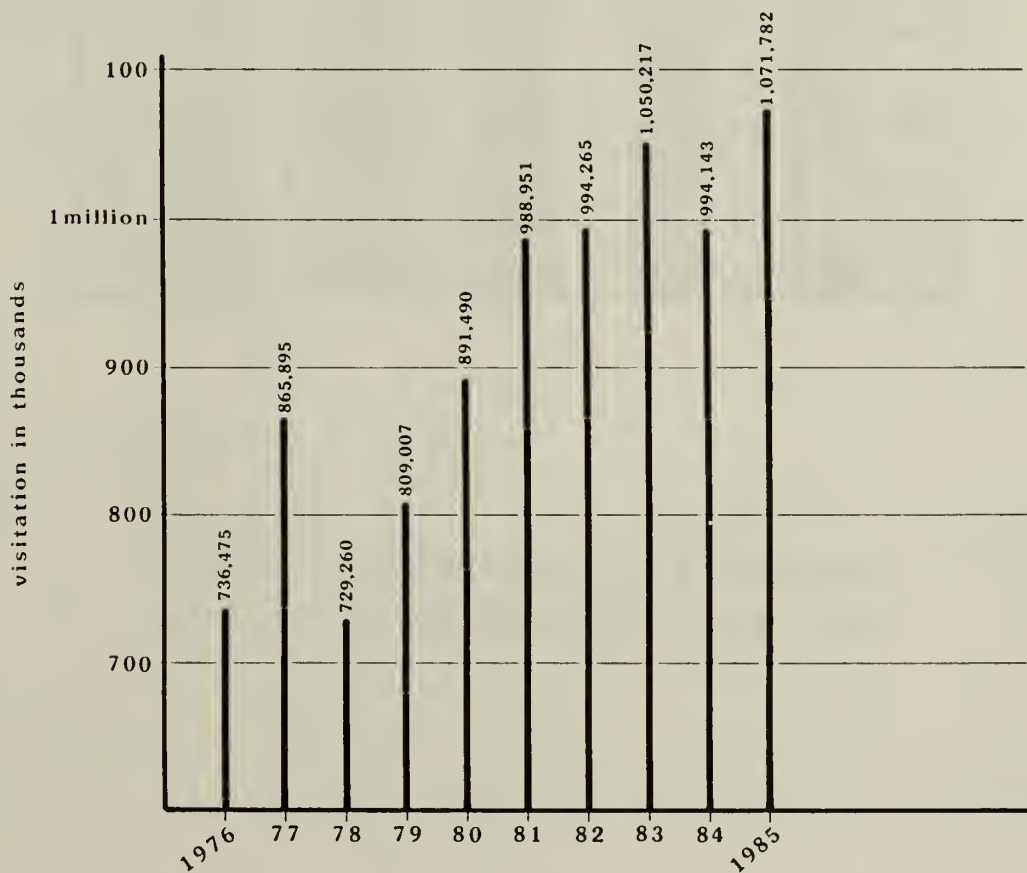
Boating with its many variations such as fishing, water skiing, sailing, sailboarding, and sightseeing is the most popular use. Other uses include picnicking, camping, and hiking. The primary winter activity is ice fishing with an average of over 50 fishermen per day on the ice. Snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are also popular activities. Hunting is a limited activity within the recreation area, but the surrounding public lands contain productive hunting areas for elk and deer.

Point of origin surveys conducted at Curecanti National Recreation Area indicate that just over half (54 percent) of all visitors are regional residents and one quarter (25 percent) of all visitors are from out of state. Twenty percent of the visitors are from the local area while about one percent are visitors from other countries. The survey conducted also indicated that the average length of stay in Curecanti's campgrounds was 3 days with 45 percent of all visitors spending two or more nights. Repeat visitors, however, stayed upward of 7 days. This latter figure may be attributed to fishing success by returning visitors.

Within a 300-mile radius of Curecanti National Recreation Area are three zones of concentrated population totalling in excess of 3,600,000 in 1980.












Monthly Visitation - 1985



Annual Visitation

Curecanti National Recreation Area

year	 sightseeing	 picnicking	 camping	 water skiing	 boating	 fishing	 hunting	 other	 sailboarding/ swimming	total (thousands)
1967	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	182
1968	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	303
1969	166	9	113	1	52	97	1	0	—	441
1970	260	9	111	1	56	122	1	0	—	562
1971	484	5	95	1	53	109	1	1	—	750
1972	459	13	98	2	56	102	1	0	—	732
1973	477	13	97	1	42	84	1	0	—	716
1974	460	7	114	1	43	84	0	0	—	710
1975	609	10	109	2	46	74	0	0	—	852
1976	481	14	102	3	52	82	0	0	—	736
1977	541	30	86	5	89	111	0	0	—	866
1978	340	53	109	8	88	125	1	0	—	729
1979	387	56	98	8	103	154	0	0	—	809
1980	420	74	99	8	107	179	1	0	—	891
1981	459	87	102	7	126	203	2	0	—	990
1982	476	80	94	6	134	195	2	0	7	994
1983	601	68	105	2	129	140	1	2	2	1,050
1984	667	49	99	2	70	101	1	2	3	994
1985	693	69	117	1	68	116	1	2	5	1,072

Annual Visitation by Activity

Curecanti National Recreation Area

While the population of Colorado has stabilized over the past couple of years, the State's population increased by one-third from 1970 to 1980. As the visibility of the recreational opportunities available in the Gunnison area increases, visitation to Curecanti can be expected to increase.

E. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The construction of initial facilities within Curecanti National Recreation Area is virtually complete. A 5-year accelerated development program to complete initial facilities at Curecanti began in fiscal year 1980 under Section 8 funding of the CRSP Act and was nearly completed by the end of fiscal year 1984. Loose ends of the program are scheduled to be finished up during 1986 and early 1987.

While the construction aspect of Curecanti as a "developing" area is nearly complete, the operational aspect is not. Curecanti has never had an Operations of National Park Service budget which is adequate to operate and maintain the facilities which have been constructed in the past few years. Between that and the possible effects of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, the staff at Curecanti is greatly concerned that a limited operating budget will result in the deterioration of newly constructed facilities.

A comparison of National Park Service facilities and equipment at Curecanti for 1979 and 1985 follows:

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1985</u>
1. Roads and Trails:		
a. Lane miles of road	42.7	79.0
b. Trails		
(1) number	2	10
(2) miles	1.7	17.0
2. Buildings and Grounds:		
a. Buildings		
(1) Number	63	108
(2) Square feet	38,150	80,920
b. Buildings include		
(1) Administration building		
(2) Visitor center	1	1
(3) Visitor information/ contact stations	0	3
(4) Maintenance shops/ storage buildings	9	12
(5) Quarters units	11	23
(a) For number of employees	12	50

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1985</u>
(6) Comfort stations	13	51
(a) Water-borne	10	9
(b) Vaults	3	30
(c) Combination	0	6
(d) Backcountry bucket	0	6
c. Fee campgrounds	1	8
Campsites	157	396
d. Non-fee campgrounds	1	8
e. Amphitheaters	1	4
3. Utility Systems:		
a. Water systems	4	5
b. Hand pumps	0	12
c. Wastewater treatment systems	3	6
d. Irrigation systems	3	10
e. Solid waste collection points	100	200
f. Fuel sites	8	13
(1) Gasoline	3	5
(2) Diesel	3	5
(3) Propane	2	3
4. Major Equipment:		
a. Heavy Equipment	5	14
b. GSA Rental Vehicles	23	24
c. Light equipment	20	25
d. Patrol and maintenance boats	9	13
e. Tour boats	1	2
f. Marine engines	8	23
g. Public courtesy docks	3	5
h. Concrete boat launching ramps	2	6
i. Harbor breakwater systems	1	3
j. Dry dock	0	1
5. Wayside Exhibits/Museum Objects:		
a. Bulletin boards (with area orientation maps and site specific maps)	0	15
b. Area orientation maps in oblique enclosures	0	10
c. Interpretive panels covering natural and human historical subjects	3	41
d. Narrow-gauge railroad engines and cars	5	8
e. Accessioned museum groups representing natural history, history, and prehistory	0	66
f. Traveler information stations	0	2

F. STATUS OF PLANNING

<u>Name of Plan/Study</u>	<u>Preparer</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Repository</u>
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANS				
General Management Plan	Dunkley	7/2/70	No	RMR/CURE
Amendment 1		9/1/82		RMR/CURE
Amendment 2		7/22/83		RMR/CURE
Amendment 3		Pending		CURE/RMR

Curecanti's General Management Plan as currently written was designed as a guide for the Section 8 construction program. At this time, the General Management Plan is dated and needs to be revised, but the revision may be postponed until the legislative process to formally establish Curecanti is complete. During the legislative process, it is expected that Congressional committees may take a hand in planning for the national recreation area. Currently, proposed legislation calls for a 3-year planning process to develop a General Management Plan for the entire park and recreation area complex.

Natural Resources Management Plan	Andrascik	3/23/84	Yes	CURE/RMR
Cultural Resource Management Plan	Jones	3/28/84	Yes	CURE/RMR
Legislative Package	O'Shea	1/30/86 approval pending	Yes	RMR/CURE

ACTION PLANS

Natural Resources

Fire Management Plan	CURE Staff	7/85	Yes	CURE
100-Year Flood-plain Analysis	U.S.B.R.	1980	Yes	CURE/DSC U.S.B.R.

Cultural Resources

Historic Maintenance Guide (Cimarron Exhibit)	Jones	1977	Yes	CURE
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<u>Name of Plan/Study</u>	<u>Preparer</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Repository</u>
<u>Visitor Services</u>				
Interpretive Plan	Reed	4/1/80	No	CURE/RMR
Annual Statement for Interpretation	Hill	1985 Currently being updated	Yes	CURE/RMR
Concessions Manage- ment Plan		Currently in process		
Loss Control Management Plan		Currently in process		
Dam Emergency Plan	Blank	11/26/85	Yes	CURE/RMR
<u>Maintenance and Support</u>				
Quarters Management Plan	Heywood	2/7/86 Approval pending	Yes	CURE/RMR

G. EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING

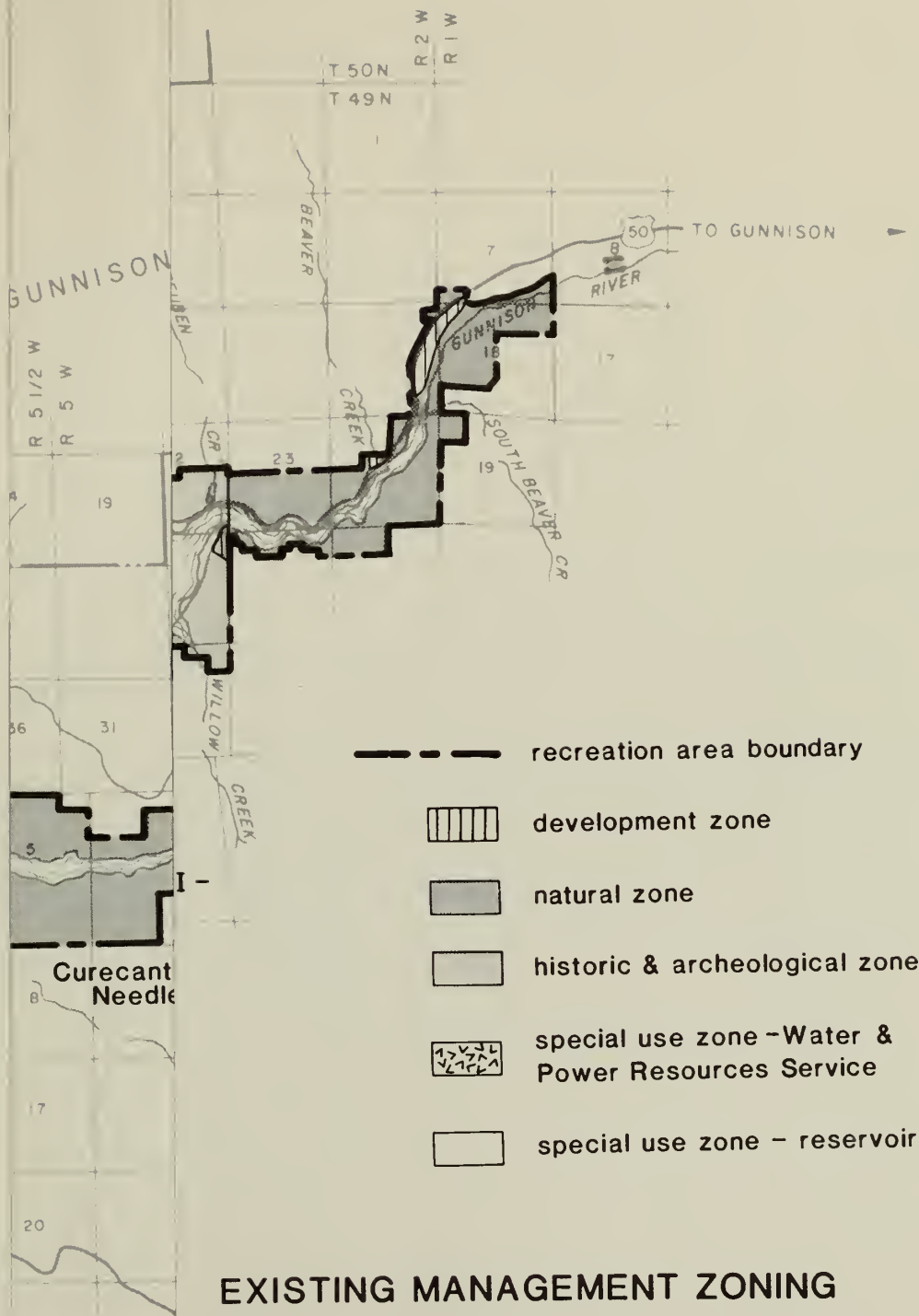
Land and water at Curecanti National Recreation Area are zoned as to what type of use is allowed in each area. The zoning is based on that area's inherent physical character and its potential for accommodating use. The system used for Curecanti National Recreation Area, separates the area into four broad categories as follows:

1. Park Development Zones

These are areas which have high potential to accommodate recreation use without severe adverse effects on the natural environment. Areas in this category may include boat launching areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, and interpretive, administrative, and maintenance facilities.

2. Natural Zones

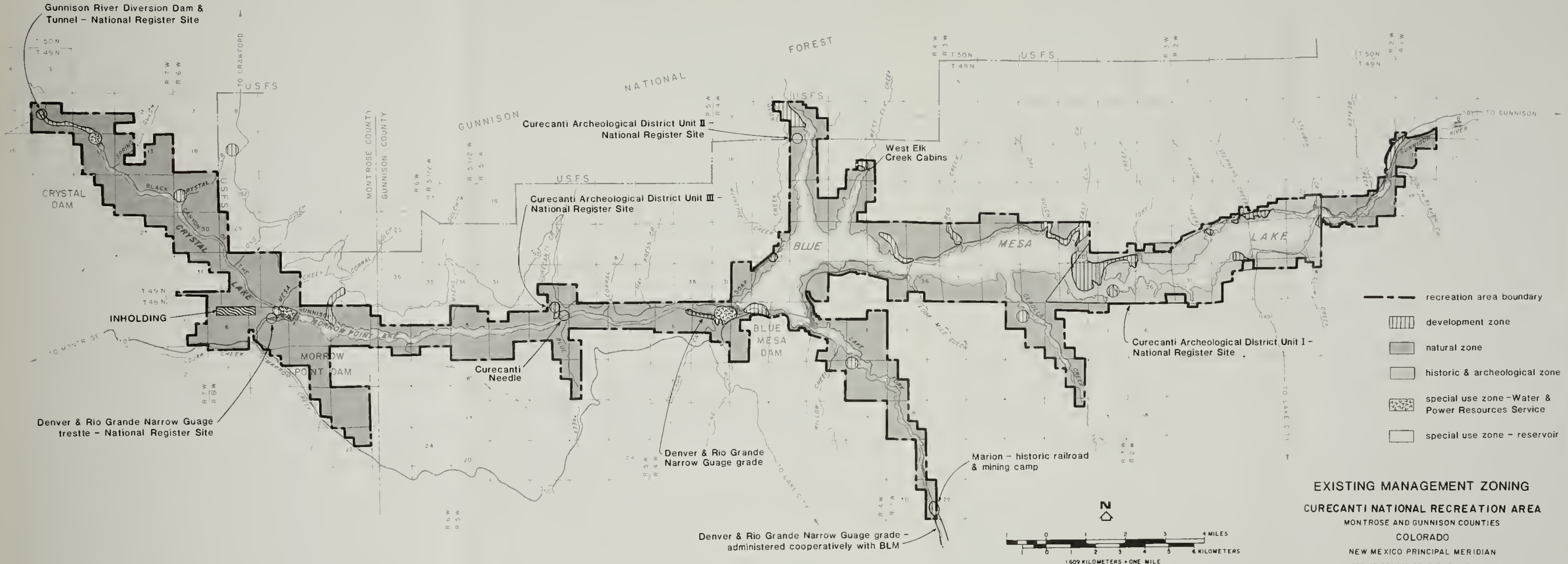
Included in this category are areas having outstanding or sensitive natural qualities. They may be features or entire ecosystem areas which should be preserved to



EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
 MONTROSE AND GUNNISON COUNTIES
 COLORADO

NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

616 | 80,037-A
 AUG 86 | RMRO



EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING
CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
 MONTROSE AND GUNNISON COUNTIES
 COLORADO
 NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
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 AUG 86 | RMRO

enhance the integrity of the total park environment. Only minor physical development such as foot trails and interpretive exhibits are permitted in this category.

3. Historic and Archeological Zones

Included in this zone are areas of historic or archeological significance to be protected or interpreted as well as structures and sites which are on the National Register of Historic Places.

4. Special Use Zones

This category includes land areas controlled by Bureau of Reclamation for operation of the Wayne N. Aspinall Unit for its primary purposes. It includes the access roads to the three dam sites, power generation and distribution facilities, and related facilities. Lake surface areas and areas below the maximum pool elevation of the lakes are zoned in the reservoir special-use zone.

The location of land and water areas included in each zone is shown on the Existing Management Zoning Map.

IV. MAJOR ISSUES

A. PARK GENERAL

1. Curecanti's "Developing" Area Status

Curecanti, classified as a "developing" area, has completed the 5-year, Section 8 facility construction program but has not yet received the Operations of National Park Service budget needed to operate and properly maintain the facilities constructed.

2. Effects of Gramm-Rudmann-Hollings

Reducing an already inadequate budget may necessitate limited operations and inadequate maintenance procedures leading to the deterioration of newly constructed facilities.

3. Proposed Legislation

The status and configuration of legislation proposed for the formal establishment of Curecanti National Recreation Area is of utmost concern to the park staff.

4. Legal Survey of Boundary

An accurate legal survey and monumenting of Curecanti's boundary adjacent to private lands is needed to resolve law enforcement, resource, and possible encroachment issues. Piecemeal preliminary surveys previously done have proven inaccurate and have resulted in conflicts with adjacent landowners.

A comprehensive legal survey and monumenting of the remaining portion of Curecanti's boundary will be needed once the location of the boundary has been legislatively determined.

5. Complete History of the Curecanti Area

There is no complete history compiled for the lands now called Curecanti National Recreation Area nor of the National Park Service administration of those lands. Knowledgeable people with valuable information are passing out of existence. Action is required in the near future if much valuable information is to be saved.

6. Neighboring Land Development and Use

Several subdivisions and recreation vehicle parks are under construction on lands adjacent to the Curecanti boundary. The impacts of those increased levels of development on the recreational experience or the natural resources of the park have not been looked at. The potential for additional development adjacent to Curecanti is great.

7. Visitation Growth

Visitation at Curecanti has increased at a fairly steady rate over the past 7 years. The ability of existing or reduced levels of personnel to provide quality services into the future, if the growth pattern continues, will at best provide a considerable challenge to the park staff.

8. Decision on National Park Service Authority Concerning Rights-of-Way

Requests from the Colorado Department of Highways to widen some sections of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 50 which runs across the lands administered by the National Park Service at Curecanti were forwarded to

the Bureau of Reclamation after review by the Regional Solicitor. The National Park Service is issuing a right-of-way to a private landowner from U.S. Highway 50, across the highway right-of-way and a short piece (103 feet) of the national recreation area to provide access to privately owned lands. Access to neighboring lands is an issue. What authority in what situations does the park have to issue right-of-ways for roads/highways?

9. Authorized Uses of Curecanti Lands

No comprehensive list of rights-of-way, licensing agreements, special-use permits, or other authorizing documents issued by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, or the U.S. Forest Service for the use of lands now administered by the National Park Service has been compiled.

10. Ice Jamming on the Gunnison River

As the Bureau of Reclamation identifies alternatives for mitigating the ice jamming and resultant flooding of the Gunnison River upstream from Curecanti, the park staff will evaluate the impacts the alternatives may have on the operation and resources of the recreation area and make appropriate input to the Bureau.

B. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Data on Water Quality, Needs, and Rights

Baseline water quality data and an ongoing monitoring program are needed to allow detection and response to resource degradation.

A determination of the minimum water necessary to preserve the integrity of the physical resources as well as the visitor experience is needed.

Research to determine the legal water rights of Curecanti is needed.

A comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan is needed.

2. Prairie Dog Management

The susceptibility of the Gunnison Prairie Dog to bubonic plague and their close proximity to campgrounds

at Curecanti result in a need to monitor and control populations adjacent to developed areas in the park.

3. Baseline Data on Flora

No parkwide vegetative inventory exists. Once the base data is gathered, a vegetative management plan will be developed to address issues including grazing management within the national recreation area.

4. Baseline Data on Fauna

Existing data on most species at Curecanti was gathered prior to the construction of the reservoirs. No data has been gathered since. An inventory of small vertebrates is needed to allow us to take proactive management actions. Big game species have received more attention to date because of the role of the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

5. Existing Mining Claims

Existing mining claims or mineral ownership or interests have not been identified within the Curecanti boundary.

C. CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Cultural and Historical Resource Protection

Continual monitoring and protection of all identified cultural and historical resources including those in the Curecanti National Archeological District is needed on an ongoing basis.

2. Historic Maintenance Guide - Cimarron Trestle

No maintenance guide has been done for the Denver and Rio Grande Western narrow gauge trestle at Cimarron. The structure which is on the National Register is currently being maintained without a comprehensive guide.

3. Historic Furnishings Study - Outfit Car (No. 04414)

This car is one of the narrow gauge cars in the exhibit at Cimarron. Period furnishings which would have been used by the workmen of the time dating to the early 1940's need to be identified and acquired.

D. VISITOR SERVICES

1. Representative Collection of Artifacts for Park Use

The Midwest Archeological Center has amassed a considerable collection of artifacts from the excavation of some sites within the Curecanti National Archeological District. There is a need to have a representative artifact study collection returned to the park to be used for illustrative as well as educative purposes.

2. Appropriate Concession Operations

Planning for the upcoming concessions contract has started including an assessment of necessary and appropriate services and facilities to be included.

E. MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Maintenance Management System

Some real benefits which could be derived from implementing such a system on the Datapoint computer system now being utilized at Curecanti can be seen. Curecanti awaits direction from the Region and the Washington Office before initiating the program. Additional funding to hire personnel necessary to implement the program will also be needed.

V. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A. Natural and cultural resources are conserved and protected for future generations to enjoy.

B. Facilities are planned, designed, and constructed to provide necessary support for the outdoor recreation experiences at Curecanti National Recreation Area.

C. Public orientation, information, and education services (media and personal services) are provided to expand and enhance understanding, appreciation, wise use, and protection of park resources by the visiting public.

D. Management of financial and support resources is such that waste, mismanagement, and inefficiencies are eliminated.

E. Facilities are operated and maintained to assure the life, health, safety, and enjoyment of visitors to Curecanti National Recreation Area.

F. Public relations maintain a favorable image for outdoor recreation experiences at Curecanti National Recreation Area and for the National Park Service in general.

G. Administrative support services are provided which enable the accomplishment of Curecanti's mission, goals, and objectives.

H. Visitor support services and experiences are provided by private industry (concessionaire and other) for park visitors in support of the outdoor recreation experience at Curecanti National Recreation Area.

I. Visitor protection services are provided for all Curecanti National Recreation Area visitors and emergency services are performed at the highest National Park Service standards.

APPENDIX

Supporting information related to the management of Curecanti National Recreation Area is included in this Appendix as follows:

A. Section 8 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105).

B. Secretary of the Interior memorandum dated February 17, 1958; Subject: Designation of Responsibility for carrying out the provisions of Section 8, Public Law 485, Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects.

C. Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service relating to the Development and Administration of Recreation on the Curecanti Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, dated February 11, 1965.

D. Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture) and the National Park Service (Department of the Interior) dated July 11, 1966.

PUBLIC LAW 84-485--April 11, 1956

Recreational and
fish and wildlife
facilities.

SEC. 8. In connection with the development of the Colorado River storage project and of the participating projects, the Secretary is authorized and directed to investigate, plan, construct, operate, and maintain (1) public recreational facilities on lands withdrawn or acquired for the development of said project or of said participating projects, to conserve the scenery, the natural, historic, and archeologic objects, and the wildlife on said lands, and to provide for public use and enjoyment of the same and of the water areas created by these projects by such means as are consistent with the primary purposes of said projects; and (2) facilities to mitigate losses of, and improve conditions for, the propagation of fish and wildlife. The Secretary is authorized to acquire lands* and to withdraw public lands from entry or other disposition under the public land laws necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facilities herein provided, and to dispose of them to Federal, State, and local governmental agencies by lease, transfer, exchange, or conveyance upon such terms and conditions as will best promote their development and operation in the public interest. All costs incurred pursuant to this section shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable.

*This provision was repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976.
(90 Stat. 2792)

February 17, 1958

Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior

From: Director, National Park Service

Subject: Designation of Responsibility for Carrying Out
the Provisions of Section 8, Public Law 485,
Colorado River Storage Project and Participating
Projects

Planning and construction of recreation facilities on reservoirs authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act are definite responsibilities of the Department under provisions of Section 8 of that Act, copy attached. This Section also provides for the acquisition of lands necessary for recreation facilities.

The National Park Service has been cooperating with the Bureau of Reclamation in developing preliminary recreation plans for first priority reservoirs in the Upper Colorado and has obtained funds for this purpose. There is urgent need now, however, for approximately \$23,000 with which to investigate and adjudicate certain mining claims and to acquire a few partial tracts for recreation purposes, adjacent to lands being acquired by the Bureau for reservoir project purposes, so that severance damages may be avoided.

The Bureau can accomplish this work most expeditiously and economically if it does so at the same time it is acquiring land for reservoir operation and maintenance purposes. However, Section 5 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act provides that the Bureau shall derive its funds from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund, thereby precluding it from carrying out the provisions of Section 8. This latter Section provides that all costs incurred pursuant to recreation and fish, and wildlife expenditures shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable.

It is the joint recommendation of the Bureau and the Service that you designate the National Park Service as the agency

responsible for carrying out the Department's obligation under Section 8 of the above act except, of course, as it relates to provision number (2) concerning fish and wildlife. Under this procedure, the Service could transfer funds to the Bureau for urgent comment needs and request funds with which to reimburse the Bureau for future years requirements. There will be many other recreation problems, of course, that will arise as the Colorado River Storage Project progresses. However, we feel that these can be met as they occur within the framework of Departmental policy and budgetary procedures.

There is a meeting pending between representative of this Department and the Department of Agriculture to discuss broad principles relating to the planning and development of recreation facilities on reclamation withdrawn lands within national forests. Certain national forests within the Upper Colorado River Basin will be partially affected by Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs. Your designation of the National Park Service as the agency responsible for carrying out the provisions of Section 8 of the Colorado River Storage Project Act will not, however, predetermine the position to be taken in these pending discussions. We expect to submit our recommendation in the near future concerning these basic policy questions for consideration and negotiation at Departmental level.

A Memorandum of Agreement will be developed by the Bureau and the Service for each reservoir area to provide a long-term basis for administration and development of the recreation resources. We hope you will see fit to approve this interim designation of responsibility requested herein at an early date in order that the Service may include the necessary funds in its 1960 fiscal year estimates.

/S/ Conrad L. Wirth

Director

Attachment

I concur: Mar 12, 1958

/S/ Alfred R. Golze
Commissioner of Reclamation

Approved: April 21, 1958

/S/ Fred A. Seaton
Secretary of the Interior

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
Between
THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
and
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF
RECREATION ON THE CURECANTI UNIT
COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 11th day of February 1965, between the BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, and the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, hereinafter referred to as the Service as agencies of the United States of America:

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS the Bureau is proceeding with the construction of the Curecanti Unit as a part of the Colorado River Storage Project authorized by the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105); and

WHEREAS the Service has been designated as the agency responsible for carrying out the provision of Section 8 of the said Act of April 11, 1956; and

WHEREAS lands are being acquired and public lands have been withdrawn for the purposes of the project, as authorized by the aforesaid Act of April 11, 1956; and

WHEREAS a large number of persons are expected to use the lands and waters of such withdrawn area for the purposes of recreation; and

WHEREAS the Act of August 7, 1946 (60 Stat. 885) authorizes the use of appropriated funds by the Service for the administration, protection, improvement, and maintenance of areas under the jurisdiction of other agencies of the Government when such areas are devoted to recreational use pursuant to cooperative agreements; and

WHEREAS the Service is experienced in administering areas devoted to recreational use:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Bureau and the Service do hereby mutually agree as follows:

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Bureau shall retain complete authority over and responsibility for construction, operation and maintenance of the Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Dams and Reservoirs for primary project purposes together with all engineering works in connection therewith. Except for the areas required by the Bureau for construction, operation and maintenance of the dams, the Service shall administer all lands and waters within the project area, providing for recreation therein. The agreed areas of authority between the Bureau and the Service include all those lands acquired, withdrawn, or segregated by the Bureau for project purposes under the authority of the aforesaid Act of April 11, 1956. These lands are generally depicted on the enclosed drawing marked Exhibit "A" and numbered SA-CUR-7101. This Exhibit may be revised at any time to illustrate changes in the project area as a result of land acquisition, or additional withdrawals.

2. The parties to this agreement acknowledge that, as authorized by Congress, each has an interest in the storage, release, and utilization of the water which is to be impounded by the Curecanti Unit, and that such unit was authorized, and is being constructed, for the primary purposes of irrigation, flood control, and the generation of hydro-electric power and the incidental purposes of recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation. This agreement shall not be construed to conflict with the primary purposes of the project or to alter the Bureau's control over storage and release of water. However, to the extent consistent with the authorized primary purposes of said project, the Bureau shall operate the dams and reservoirs in keeping with the Secretarial policy which provides for full consideration of public recreation and fish and wildlife conservation on reservoir projects undertaken by the Federal Government. The Service shall determine the optimum and minimum pool levels desirable for public recreational use and provide the Bureau with this information for consideration in carrying out the purposes of this paragraph.

3. Prior to making any new development or granting any concession, lease, license or permit which, because of its nature or location will affect the Bureau's activities at the Curecanti Unit Dams, the Service shall obtain the concurrence of the Bureau. Before making any new development or granting any concession, lease, license, or permit at the Curecanti Unit Dams which will affect the recreational and tourist facilities on the remainder of the project area, the Bureau shall obtain the concurrence of the Service. If either party does not concur in such proposed development, concession, lease, license, or permit the proposal shall be held in abeyance until agreement is reached by the Bureau and the Service or the Secretary has resolved any differences of opinion.

4. The parties to this agreement acknowledge and understand that the fulfillment of the agreement is contingent upon the availability of funds for the purposes thereof.

ARTICLE II FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Subject to the primary purposes of the project, area limitations, and other provisions contained in Article I hereof, the Service in its administration of the project area for recreation, shall be responsible for:

1. Preparing plans for and constructing recreational facilities, including roads and trails.

2. Advertising for, evaluating and approving or rejecting bids and negotiating contracts for the installation or construction of recreational facilities.

3. Negotiating and executing contracts, with private individuals, partnerships or corporations for supplying necessary visitor services

related to recreational use of the project area, including, but not limited to, use of the waters for boating, canoeing, bathing, and sightseeing; and prescribing and enforcing reasonable rates and standards for the supplying of such services.

4. Establishing and enforcing policies regarding the recreational use of lands and waters in the project area. It is understood that grazing activities within that portion of the project area administered by the Service shall be controlled and supervised by the Service in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management.

5. Promulgating and enforcing such rules and regulations as are necessary or desirable for the conservation of any historic or archeological remains, and control of all archeological excavation and historical or archeological research or as may be needed for recreational use and enjoyment of the area and for the safety of visitors.

6. Establishing and maintaining protective, interpretive, and other facilities and services as may be necessary for the safe and full use and enjoyment of the area for recreational purposes. Public information activities and services shall be provided by the Service through coordination with other Interior agencies in order to facilitate public understanding of the interrelated programs of these agencies within the area.

7. Control of transportation in the area under its jurisdiction, whether by land, water, or air, to the extent consistent with Federal law, but such control shall not affect transportation the Bureau may require for the performance of its functions or transportation governed by Article III, paragraphs numbered 3 and 4.

8. Extending to the Bureau and other agencies involved technical assistance in the planning and development of exhibits and interpretive devices oriented toward visitor understanding and enjoyment of the project and related resources.

9. Negotiation of agreements or coordination of activities with State and Federal wildlife agencies as desirable for the conservation, protection and interpretation of wildlife consistent with applicable law.

10. Such other functions as are reasonably related to, or necessary for, its administration of the project area.

ARTICLE III FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Subject to the area limitations and provisions contained in Article I hereof, the Bureau shall be responsible for:

1. Construction, operation and maintenance of the Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Dams and Reservoirs and all engineering works incidental thereto or in connection therewith, together with all appurtenances thereof for the proper storage, release, protection and utilization of water

under the Federal Reclamation Laws.

2. Consultation with the Service on matters involving the development or administration of recreational facilities or public information services to be provided in the areas required by the Bureau for construction, operation and maintenance of the three dams in the Curecanti Unit.

3. Establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations governing public access to the Curecanti Unit Dams and the engineering works appurtenant thereto, and the control of traffic on the roads providing immediate access to the dams and their appurtenant engineering works.

4. Establishment of and, in cooperation with the Service, enforcement of such limitations governing approach to the dams by water as may be necessary either for their efficient functioning or for the safety of the public.

5. Coordination and preparation of reservoir management plans in cooperation with the Service and other concerned Federal, State, and local agencies, for management of the three dams and reservoirs in the project area.

6. Consultation with the Service so that recreational development and administration of the project area will be coordinated with construction and operation of the Curecanti Unit.

ARTICLE IV TERMINATION

This memorandum shall remain in force unless the parties thereto mutually agree to its termination or termination is directed by the Secretary of the Interior, or until enactment by the Congress of inconsistent or superseding legislation.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Date 1/8/1965
(Sgd) Floyd E. Dominy

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Date Dec. 21-1964
(Sgd) George B. Hartzog

Approved: February 11, 1965

(Sgd) Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

July 11, 1966

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING made this 11 th day of July, 1966, by and between the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, hereinafter referred to as the Park Service, acting pursuant to the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105), represented by the Superintendent, Curecanti Recreation Area, National Park Service, and the FOREST SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, acting pursuant to the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 35), as amended, and in accordance with the letter from the Secretary of Agriculture to Secretary of Interior dated September 27, 1957, represented by the Forest Supervisor, Gunnison National Forest.

WHEREAS, Curecanti Unit of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project has a great public recreation potential; and

WHEREAS, Congressional action is expected, to the effect that, for the purpose of developing the Curecanti Recreation Area to its full recreation potential for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, the area be classified as a National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, only a very minor part of the Curecanti Recreation Area and the lands withdrawn by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation for construction of the Curecanti Project are National Forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park Service will plan, construct, maintain and administer the public recreation developments on the shoreline with only a minor exception in the small instance where the reservoirs encroach on National Forest lands; and

WHEREAS, it is highly desirable for one agency to plan, construct, maintain and administer the entire public recreation complex around the Reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, the Park Service is desirous of doing the planning, construction, maintenance and administration of the public recreation facilities to be developed on the Forest Service lands within the withdrawal area of the Reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is desirous to make available to the Park Service for development of public recreation facilities those National Forest lands which are within the withdrawal area of the Reservoirs.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

A. THE FOREST SERVICE:

1. Grants the Park Service, subject to all valid claims and possible future Congressional or other legal classification of the Curecanti Recreation area as a National Recreation Area, use of the following described Forest Service lands to plan, construct, maintain and administer public recreation facilities as detailed in Section B, Paragraph 2, of this MEMORANDUM.

T. 49 N., R. 4 W., N.M.P.M.

Section 8 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
S $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 49 N., R. 6 W., N.M.P.M.

Section 29 W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$

2. Will allow the Park Service to survey, design, construct and maintain a road on Forest Service lands lying within the Blue Mesa Reservoir withdrawal area, the termini of this road being Forest Development Road #721 and the eastern most extent of the Blue Mesa Reservoir withdrawal area in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, T. 49 N., R. 4 W., N.M.P.M.

B. THE PARK SERVICE:

1. Will assume the fire protection responsibilities of those lands described in Section A, Paragraph 1, from the date of acceptance of this Memorandum to the date the Blue Mesa Reservoir area by Congressional or other legal action becomes a National Recreation Area, or until this Memorandum is terminated by mutual consent of both the Park Service and the Forest Service.

2. Will not develop or construct any improvements on National Forest land described herein during the life of this Memorandum other than those which are specifically mentioned below without the concurrence of the Forest Service. Those improvements which are specifically agreed to as a part of this Memorandum are: necessary access roads and trails, campground facilities and a boat dock.

3. Agrees that all land line surveys and boundary fencing needed in the exercise of this Memorandum will be the responsibility of the Park Service.

4. Will transfer to the Unit Collection Officer, Gunnison National Forest, money collected on National Forest lands administered by the Park Service under the terms and conditions of this Memorandum for deposit in the National Forest Fund. The frequency of transfer of said receipts to be mutually determined by the Park Service and the Forest Service, Provided, that all such transfers are made at least annually with last SF-1081 voucher for each fiscal year being submitted to the Forest Service not later than June 10.

C. THE PARK SERVICE AND FOREST SERVICE MUTUALLY AGREE THAT:

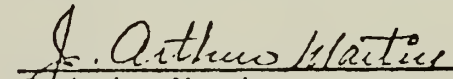
1. This Memorandum may be amended or modified by an exchange of correspondence between the parties thereto.

2. The Memorandum shall automatically terminate upon receipt by the Forest Service of written action from the Park Service (1) that the lands within the terms of this Memorandum are no longer needed for the intended purpose, or (2) that the proposed reclassification of the Blue Mesa Reservoir area has been legally authorized by Congress or other legal authority. If this Memorandum is cancelled by the exercise of the Park Service, said Park Service will within one (1) year remove or rehabilitate all structures and other developments in a manner acceptable to the Forest Service.

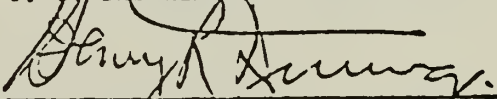
3. The liability of the parties under the Memorandum is contingent upon the necessary appropriations and reservation of funds being made therefore.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have signed this Memorandum as of the day and year first above written.

THE FOREST SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


J. Arthur Martin
Forest Supervisor
Gunnison National Forest

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR


Henry R. Daring
Superintendent
Curecanti Recreation Area

Reaffirmation Memorandum

Cooperative Agreement
Between

The USDA Forest Service
Gunnison National Forest

and

The National Park Service
Curecanti National Recreation
Area

We, the undersigned, have the authority and do hereby reaffirm the cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service for the purpose of administering the following described USDA Forest lands for recreational activities:

T. 49N., R. 4W., N.M.P.M.

Section 8 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 49N., R. 6W., N.M.P.M.

Section 29 W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$

This original agreement was signed by Henry R. During for the National Park Service and J. Arthur Martin for the USDA Forest Service and dated July 11, 1966. Said agreement and all its terms and conditions is to continue in effect for an additional 5 years from September 1, 1979 until September 1, 1984 with options for renewal at the end of that period.

H. R. During

Name and Title

National Park Service

J. Arthur Martin

Name and Title

National Forest Service

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS TASK FORCE REPORT

Title of Agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Parties to Agreement: USFS, NPS

Purpose of Agreement: cooperative land management

Brief Summary: Allows NPS to manage, protect and develop 670 acres of USFS land on the Soap Creek Arm and on Crystal Reservoir at Curecanti NRA. Allows NPS to survey and construct road and construct and maintain public recreation facilities.

Effective Period of Agreement: Beginning Date Sept. 1979
Termination Date Sept. 1984

LEGAL CLASSIFICATION

- () Agreement mandated by legal authority. (Citation)
(If yes, attach copy of the law, order, directive, etc.)
- () Agreement not mandated.

VALUE RATING

- () Agreement is beneficial to my Agency. If yes, how? (Use back of this form.)
- () Agreement not beneficial to my Agency.
- () Agreement is detrimental to my Agency.. If yes, how?
(Use back of this form.)

RECOMMENDATION

Agency Contact _____ Phone _____

Definition of Agreement - Any commitment, directive to, or other understanding involving any Interior Agency which requires spending time or money, providing or exchanging information, services or products, or a commitment to delay a decision or action until the other party concurs or comments. Agreements may include required consultations, formal written agreements, MOUs, letters of commitment, etc. Also include committees, teams, and working groups without written charters.

1. TITLE OF AGREEMENT

Memorandum of Understanding for the National Park Service to Manage
670 Acres of U.S. Forest Service Land

2. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

CURE 1574-79-02.

Curecanti National Recreation Area, National Park Service
and the Gunnison National Forest, U.S. Forest Service

3. DATE OF AGREEMENT

July 11, 1966

1574-79-02

4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AGREEMENT

Provides for the National Park Service to manage, protect and develop
670 acres of U.S. Forest Service land within the U.S. Bureau of
Reclamation withdrawal area on Blue Mesa Reservoir on the Soap Creek
Arm and on Crystal Reservoir. Allows the NPS to survey, design, construct
and maintain a road from Forest Service Development Road #721
(Soap Creek Road) to near the mouth of Coal Creek near the eastern -
extent of the Blue Mesa Reservoir withdrawal area. On this land, the
NPS may plan, construct, maintain and administer public recreation -
facilities.

5. DURATION OF AGREEMENT

Indefinite; until lands no longer needed for the National Park Service
or when Blue Mesa Reservoir is reclassified.

6. AMENDMENTS (IF ANY) AND DATES

none

7. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE (WHERE AGREEMENT IS LOCATED)

Curecanti National Recreation Area, National Park Service

Signature and typed name of official
submitting this report

James W. Packard, Superintendent

Date

12/13/76

SECOND REAFFIRMATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
DATED JULY 11, 1966 BETWEEN
USDI-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND USDA-FOREST SERVICE
RELATED TO RECREATION ADMINISTRATION OF THE CURECANTI
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS

NOW WHEREAS, as provided for in Section 1.C., We, the undersigned, have the authority and do hereby amend, modify and re-affirm the cooperative arrangements and agreements cited in the above Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies for administering the following described National Forest System lands for public recreational purposes:

T.49N., R.4W., NMPM, Gunnison County, Colorado

Section 8: NE1/4NE1/4, NW1/4NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

Section 9: SW1/4NE1/4, NW1/4NE1/4NW1/4, S1/2NE1/4NW1/4,
NW1/4NW1/4, S1/2NW1/4, S1/2

T.49N., R.6W., NMPM, Gunnison County, Colorado

Section 29: W1/2W1/2

as more particularly shown on the attached Exhibit A map

NOW WHEREAS, the original MOU was signed by Henry R. During for the National Park Service and by J. Arthur Martin for the Forest Service, dated July 11, 1966.

AND WHEREAS, the first reaffirmation of said MOU was signed by Glenn D. Alexander for the Park Service and by Jimmy R. Wilkins for the Forest Service, dated October 22, 1979 to continue the MOU for 5 years or to September 1, 1984.

NOW THEREFORE, said MOU and all of its agreements, terms and conditions is to hereby continue from September 2, 1984 to December 31, 1990, with options to renew or reaffirm at the end of that period.

Joseph F. Alston
JOSEPH F. ALSTON, Superintendent
Curecanti National Recreation Area
USDI- National Park Service

Raymond J. Evans
RAYMOND J. EVANS, Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and
Gunnison National Forests
USDI- Forest Service

4-8-86
DATE

4/18/86
DATE



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